

A matter of "Image"

EVELLE YOUNGER LANDS HERE TO TALK LAW ENFORCEMENT AND POLITICS; HE TALKS SENSE BUT CAN HE SELL IT IN NOVEMBER?

CHARISMATIC he is not, and that may be the single greatest problem that California's attorney general has in his current uphill battle to defeat Jerry Brown in the governor's race. Evelle Younger arrived in Inyo Tuesday, loaded with what appeared to be a great deal of common-sense government ideas, some right-on criticism of the state's foot-dragging criminal justice system - but only a few vague assurances for anyone listening that he had showed some gain in the surveys that continue to show him far behind Brown in the public popularity polls. Even in a year when Brown and a lot of Democrats everywhere are angrily criticized for a do-nothing administration, Younger seems to have trouble in getting over his message; it's not that he isn't stating the issues and offering, in some cases, some viable solutions; it's just that few people are listening. Brown, it seems, can sneeze or, as in one instance last week, make an issue over drinking water at a press conference, and get free a 30-second exposure on the six o'clock news. Younger on the other hand has yet to catch the camera's eye and even on Tuesday when he had something to say on the Brown-Younger "debates" issue, two Los Angeles television outlets turned down offers for film coverage of his press conference here. Some reporters are coming to understand why: Younger has little "presence" to offer when he makes his humorless, ponderous appearances in public.

But for those conservative, kindred souls who see in Younger a serious, no-nonsense lead-

(See YOUNGER on Page 2)

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The INYO COUNTY NEWS-LETTER

A NEWS ALTERNATIVE - EASTERN SIERRA NEWS SERVICE

Compiled by John Heston and Benett Kessler

GENERAL CIRCULATION
Published weekly

"LABOR" DAY
SURE IS

Week of
Aug. 28, 1978

The COUNTY

News Briefs

THE SUPERVISORS TAKE THE OFFENSIVE; THE HIGHWAYS TAKE THEIR TOLL; THE BLM TAKES OVER A DISPUTED DESERT; AND THE PUBLIC DEFENDER TAKES OFFICE "LEGALLY"

ONCE AGAIN ON THE OFFENSIVE AFTER A PERIOD of apparent soft-lining it, some members of the board of supervisors last week fanned the fires of the county-DWP battle. In an entirely new issue which may, or may not, turn out to be a significant one, Supervisor Johnny Johnson pressed his demand for straight answers to questions that have been bugging him for several weeks - ever since he and other county officials noticed some DWP excavations on desert land west of Highway 395 near Independence. "How come," demands Johnson, "the DWP can go tearing up the desert while individuals have to haggle with a string of regulations and permits to disturb the desert ground?"

The question, asked "officially" of a visiting Bureau of Land Management official, got a nervous reply: "I'm a little uneasy with this," he said, "I don't know where you are coming from."

DWP spokesmen have claimed that the earth-moving project is to allow "the spreading of water to recharge the underground reservoirs." A recent county hydrological survey would indicate that the DWP knows about as much about Owens Valley's underground system as the average layman, so that answer was far less than satisfactory for the inquisitorial supervisors. "The point of recharge (the pro-

(See NEWS BRIEFS, P 2)



Multi-million builder:
Ron Hubbard

(His biggest project; see FOTOPAGE, Page 8)



Confrontation: DWP's McCauley and Supervisors Muth, McDonald, Johnson
"How come DWP doesn't have to abide by the rules like everyone else?"

YOUNGER, Continued

er, his grave pronouncements heavily laden with a seeming authority provide a traditional, classic line they like to hear.

At a press conference prior to a luncheon meeting, Younger said he "fully expects" complete media coverage of his campaign as election time draws near. Right now, the biggest issue that has made some headlines has been a question of whether Younger will agree to debates with Brown - and on what terms. Brown the showman and "personality" wants the debate staged like a press conference; Younger, **acutely aware that he comes across with less dynamism in an "open forum" debate**, balks at the Brown proposal and wants instead a more structured debate. Like a courtroom perhaps; he is, after all, a lawyer.

Younger, under reporters' questioning, offered at least some predictable criticism of the governor. The Republicans in recent years have fallen short of publicly criticizing the governor's religious views (That in any campaign is suicide), but of late have a tendency to mention - always - the matter of his meditations. Meditating, it seems, **rests uneasily in the GOP mind as a questionable if not subversive practice**; no matter that Pentagon generals do it. Says Younger: "I'm a better problem-solver than he is. Apparently he meditates (Younger arches his eyebrows, pauses, and says the word as if it were somehow italicized) and makes decisions off the top of his head. He has a credibility problem."

Brown's is a "no-growth philosophy," said the visiting attorney general. "It would be disastrous to this state."

A reporter suggested that Younger's recent actions in regard to the Inyo-DWP battle "indicate" he may hold some sympathy for the county in its water battles. Although the suggestion appeared as a compliment - and a sure vote-getter in Inyo - the attorney general hedged slightly: "We have helped resolve some of the issues between DWP and Inyo. We've tried to avoid a position for or against. This fight was going on long before I became attorney general and it may go on for a long time yet, but at least I do believe we've helped to resolve some of the differences." What those differences were and how they were resolved he de-

(See YOUNGER on back page (14))

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

cess by which water goes back into the ground) is disturbing," said County Administrator John K. Smith. "It should be over the valley, not near the mountains."

But the visiting BLM man, Lou Boll, disagreed. Besides, said Boll, the land in question is DWP land, anyway. Johnson claimed that DWP is "not bound by (BLM) rulings."

"Yes they are, but their activity is an on-going project. There is no new construction."

"I think there is," argued Johnson, and then, as if he'd prepared for

just such a confrontation, DWP's Chuck McCauley produced a map. It came as no surprise to anyone that the area was indeed DWP's; most everything on the map was.

To Boll's defense of DWP, Administrator Smith charged that "I can see you've been talking with the DWP. Our studies show that there are inter-related aquifers in the valley and that the springs and wells come back when there is recharge there (further down in the valley)."

But as in so many DWP-county confrontations, there was no resolution to the argument. Finally, Supervisor Chairman Richard McDonald called it like it was: "We have here," he said, "a difference of opinion." That's where it stood as the new week started.

"ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU," adjured a late president, "but what you can do for your country." But a number of people who have taken such words to heart for literal application have found themselves blocked by an unwilling bureaucracy that would prefer to **do it - at whatever cost** - and without any help, thanks. The problem came to light at Big Pine recently when several members of the Big Pine Lions Club volunteered their personal efforts and skills - plumbing, carpentry, electrical, etc - for the remodelling of Big Pine's popular and well-used Legion Hall. But county spokesmen nixed the offer; by law, the job must go out to bid, and so it did, netting a return of one late bid of around \$35,000. But the grant for the work, secured by County Sanatoriums Director Mike Cosenza, is only for \$20,000. Some part of the planned remodelling will have to be eliminated. The supervisors gave the go-ahead on the project, to see how far the \$20,000 will carry the job - but without the volunteer help that would probably more than make up the difference.

MEMBERS OF THE NEW GRAND JURY ADJOURNED THEIR first meeting last week and announced their newly-appointed officers, named by the district attorney at behest of Superior Judge Verne Summers. The jury foreman, a former Caltrans employee, is Clyde Philbrick of Bishop; secretary for the year, Judy Waggoner of Big Pine. At its first session the jury heard a talk by the D.A., L.H. "Buck" Gibbons who later said he "talked to them about experiences with previous grand

(See NEWS BRIEFS, Page 10)

» » NOTES FROM B.K. « «

THEY CALL IT PUBLIC RELATIONS, but huckstering or, simply, "selling" remains by any name the exact (and exacting) process by which we maneuver and manipulate the truth to suit our own best ends. In Los Angeles, as elsewhere, it is big business. It is to the media and to the public what "lobbying" is to the congress and the senate. A certain amount of it is useful and helpful, even desirable. But in L.A. they may be overdoing it a bit: For example, the Department of Water and Power "public affairs" man is paid \$43,000 a year; The dog-catcher in L.A. has a PR man, as do the sheriff's office, the municipal arts commission (which spends much of its time controversially trying to come up with an "official song" for L.A.); and dozens of other departments. Whether we like it or not, PR provides a potent voice for the politically embattled and the politically unknown (Most politicians, privately, are a stumbling, bumbling lot notably lacking in the creativity to "sell" an idea - that's why they have to use a pork-barrel hand-out procedure to stay in office) and Inyo County could still make good use of a proven pro. For more or less personal reasons the Inyo leadership is fearful of hiring a public information officer, even at 20- or 25-thou, in its DWP battle. Notice, as a result, that Inyo's down-south press is either nonexistent or pro-DWP. Are the dollars available? Yes, in the form of federal monies. Why then no action? It's simple: Much of the Inyo leadership has yet to join the 20th century. It is estimated that "public relations" for the various branches of L.A. government amounts to \$20 million! Would the county (Inyo County, that is) get its money's worth at 20- or even 40-thousand dollars' annual cost? You bet it would. Inyo is in a political situation with DWP - and is also competing with other scenic areas for the tourist dollar and film crews, etc. It spends many times that much in legal costs alone just to fight battles that could be easily won politically.

THEY'RE ACTUALLY WAITING IN LINE (We know somebody who's now in fifth or sixth place) to buy what may be Inyo's hottest item: the little Mazda RX7. Is it really all that good? Well, it's about as good a sportscar as you can find in the \$10,000 bracket, and it sells for a lot less than that. RX7's secret: Mazda RX7 looks like \$20,000, runs like \$10,000, and sells for \$7,000. Sporty, handles good, has a certain classy "style" - and guzzles less gas than others. Inyo gets only about two each month, and they sell immediately, says one of the Bishop car pushers, Jim Ellis. Somehow, the rumor got started that "If you can get on a list, and get one, you can sell it for more than you paid for it." That kind of rumor (so far unverified) can sell a lot of anything. From out-of-town sources we learn that the Mazda people are happy to oblige by maintaining an ongoing "shortage." So is it really worth the wait? Probably. But you usually get what you pay for.

AND WITH THE PROLIFERATION OF CARS OF ANY KIND, there is also a proliferation of stickers to apply on their bumpers. Latest to appear and



BENETT KESSLER

one of my favorites: "CLEAN AIR SMELLS FUNNY".

WE MADE ANOTHER HAPPY DISCOVERY LAST WEEK: We had heard about it, but until we saw it we couldn't believe how really good it is. And we're talking about Tom Ross' photography. Saw a framed black-and-white landscape of his (A view of Mt. Whitney), and jotted it down handily...as a future reminder for gifts. Ross is at Independence; works out of a home photo-lab. When he's not up in the hills taking pix, he's an employee of the Inyo parks and rec department.

VERY PLEASANT PEOPLE DEPT: Don't even know her last name, but "Barbara" is the name on the name-plate she wears. She's cool, calm, fast and thoughtful. A waitress at Hobo Joe's and the gal you want when it's coffee time.

ANOTHER VPP: Darwin's Lucy Lowrance. She's the treasurer of the Darwin Community Service District, and she offered us a tour of the Darwin Water System, which we'll accept very soon. "Darwin's Water System" is reported to be a little like the Nevada Navy - not enough water to make it very impressive. Lucy says the whole town gets about two-and-a-half gallons of water per minute, piped in, more-or-less, from someplace way over the mountains, via a pipeline said to have more holes than a bucket on a rifle range. Darwinites are conspicuously lacking in swimming pools - and they are very careful indeed with matches. Signs Lucy: "It would be nice to take a shower every day."

SO HOW WOULD THE MAIN STREET MERCHANTS LIKE a nice, broad 70 mph four-laner that goes north-south just a little west of downtown Bishop? Not so good huh? Some state highway people are saying privately that that's just what's likely to happen if Bishop doesn't solve its downtown parking-and-traffic problems very soon. The history of the west is full of stories about towns that "might-have-been," or towns that died, thanks to the removal or alteration of a roadway or rail line.

AMIDST THE *schlock*, A SOOTHING *tick-tock*. Returned, finally, to its original place of honor in the courthouse board room is an antique clock, a 19th century specimen with lots of style that has languished forlornly in the local museum. It had belonged to the supervisors of many years ago and when it stopped working they moved it out. Now repaired, it marks the hours of Inyo's *supervisory* proceedings, its predictable monotony surpassed only by the *ondroning* sages themselves.

IT IS GENERALLY WELL-KNOWN (OR QUICKLY LEARNED) that users of food stamps cannot use the stamps to buy items such as pet food, liquor, beer, cigarettes, etc., etc. But in its infinite bureaucratic detailed-ness the federal agency has gone into greater, finer definitions on "questionable items," or, as one supermarket manager explains, "the items that raise doubt in the mind of the shopper." The feds are always sending new lists to the grocers, updating the okay's and the no-no's of food stamp buying. On a recent list for okay purchases: breath mints, baseball or football

(See B.K.'s NOTES on Page 4)

B.K.'s NOTES, Continued

gum, food coloring and hot barbecued meats. Among some of the prohibited items: Tums, Rol-aids, Alka 2, cough drops, etc., and also flower seeds, brewer's yeast, gelatine capsules, high protein products and vitamins. If that raises some questions in the shoppers' minds, it also raises one or two in ours. Among the primary needs, for instance, of most of the impoverished people who might use the stamps, is that for protein and vitamins - and a lot less of the junk foods available. As for booze and cigarettes, the food stamp users are not lacking; they have a friend or six willing to work out some sort of trade-out for stamps.

NEW ARRIVAL: John Travis Roper, Aug. 19, at Northern Inyo Hospital, eight-pound son of John and Mary Roper. The proud father is soon to take over management of Bishop's Economy Motor Parts. Proud grandparents: the Keith Brights of Independence, Mrs. Lester Roper of Arcadia.

BILL THOMAS, the assemblyman who would rather be in congress, has been "too busy" at Sacramento to do much campaigning. His GOP supporters promise that Thomas will "go to work very soon." In personal campaigning he's already light years behind the opposition.

AND MAY THE NEWS IN YOUR DAY BE GOOD NEWS, every day....

- Sincerely,

BK

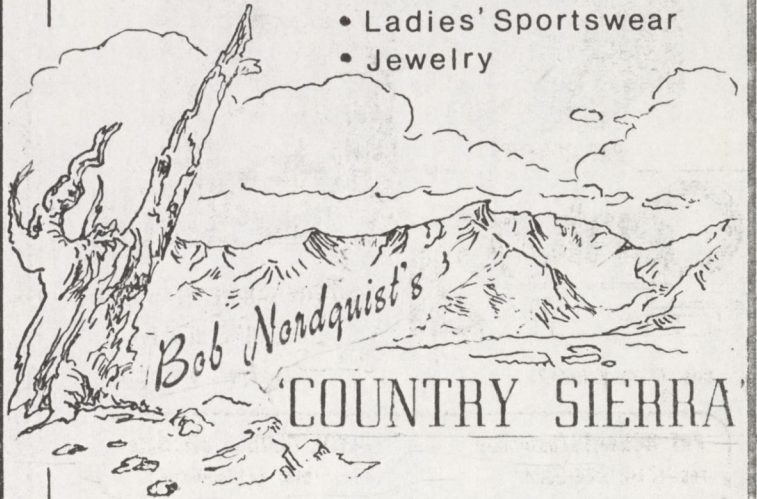
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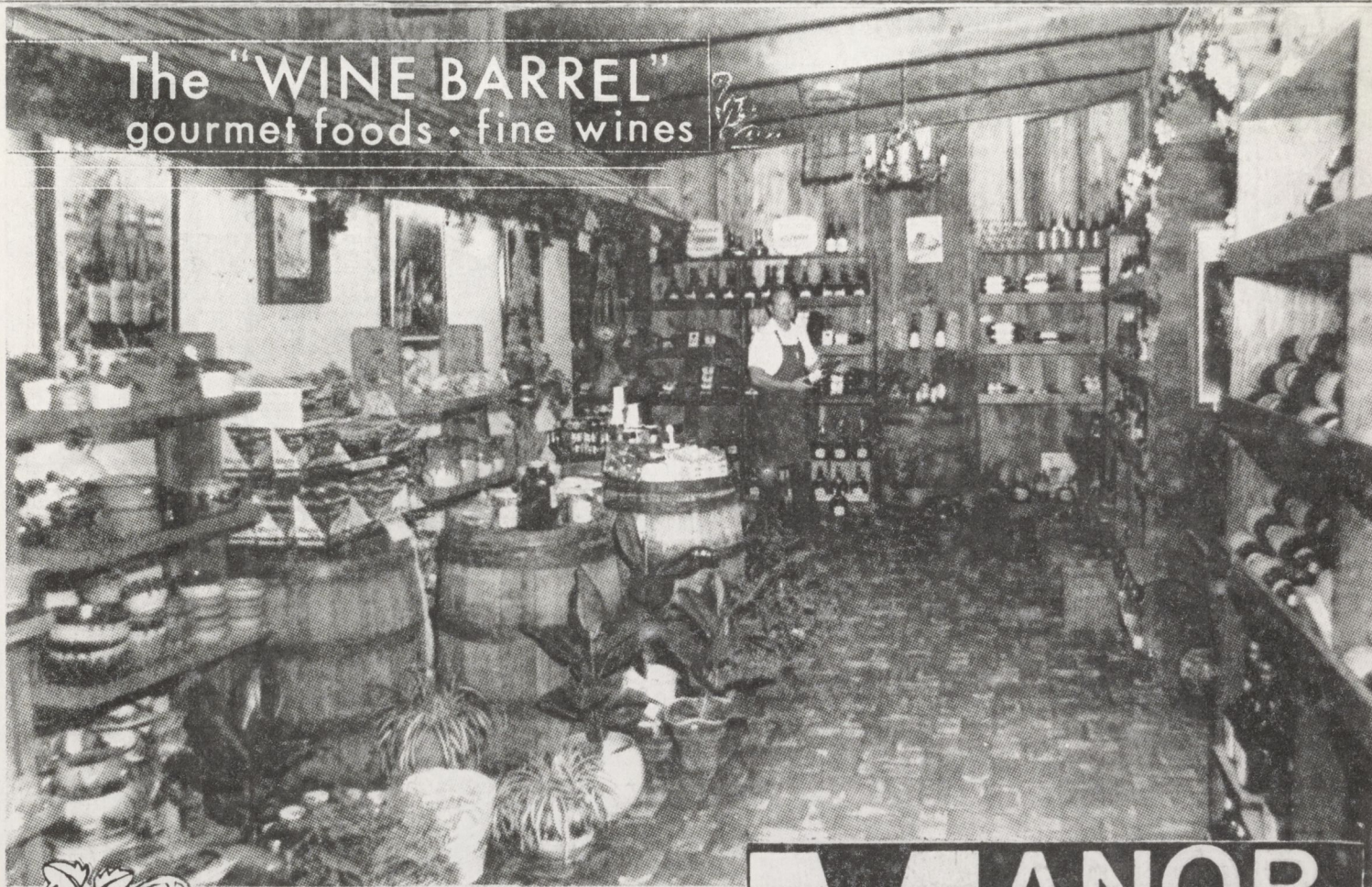
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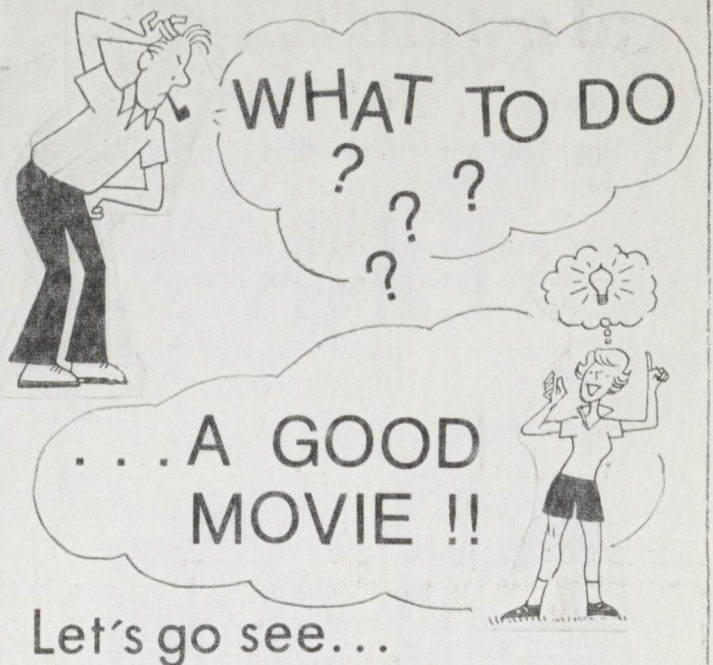


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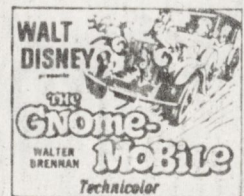


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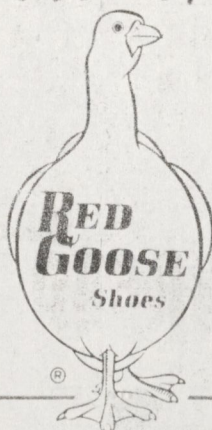
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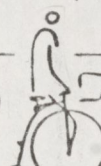
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NEWS-LETTER'S VIEWFINDER: VALLEY FOTOPAGE

Hubbard's big Shopping complex

BISHOP'S COTTONWOOD PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER IS BY FAR THE AREA'S SHOWIEST AND MOST AMBITIOUS PROJECT TO DATE; IT IS THE WORK OF A DRIVEN, OUTSPOKEN "HOMETOWN" MAN, RON HUBBARD, WHO WILL GROSS NEARLY \$2 MILLION TO PUT IT INTO BUSINESS.

Enough construction had been completed last week to give passersby at least a vague idea as to the scope of what may be the area's biggest commercial showpiece. Already, the future tenants of "Cottonwood Plaza" (which has few if any remaining cottonwoods) were lining up to rent its spacious store frontages. Its ceiling beams



alone (shown here being installed by John Covelli and Tom Chinzi above, and Supervisor Tom Tatham) speak of "Plaza's" bigness and cost. Each of the laminated beams weighs over a ton and costs upwards of \$4000; There are scores of them. The Plaza's builder, hometown-boy Ron Hubbard, flies without hesitation into the faces and criticisms of Bishop's "no-growth" proponents, and he takes on a lion's share of Bishop contracts like this

center. As for the anti-growth advocates, Hubbard sees them as a minority - "Southern California idiots" - who in effect move up here and then prefer to shut others out. He sees "growth" as no significant problem in any case: "There isn't that great a number that comes here to work. A few come here to retire," he said. Meanwhile he and a lot of sub-contractors, like Larry and Bob McIntosh, and a Hubbard foreman, Steve Fitts, above, work rapidly to meet the deadline Hubbard has set: Completion in "about six months." The structure will house a major restaurant, drugstore, and many other firms on two floors.

"Cottonwood Plaza" is the idea of two Shafter, Cal., developers, Mert Wiedman and Leland Bell who 'have been trying to get into Bishop for six years.' The site they obtained formerly was occupied by a root beer stand, a used-car lot and some other more-or-less nondescript structures.



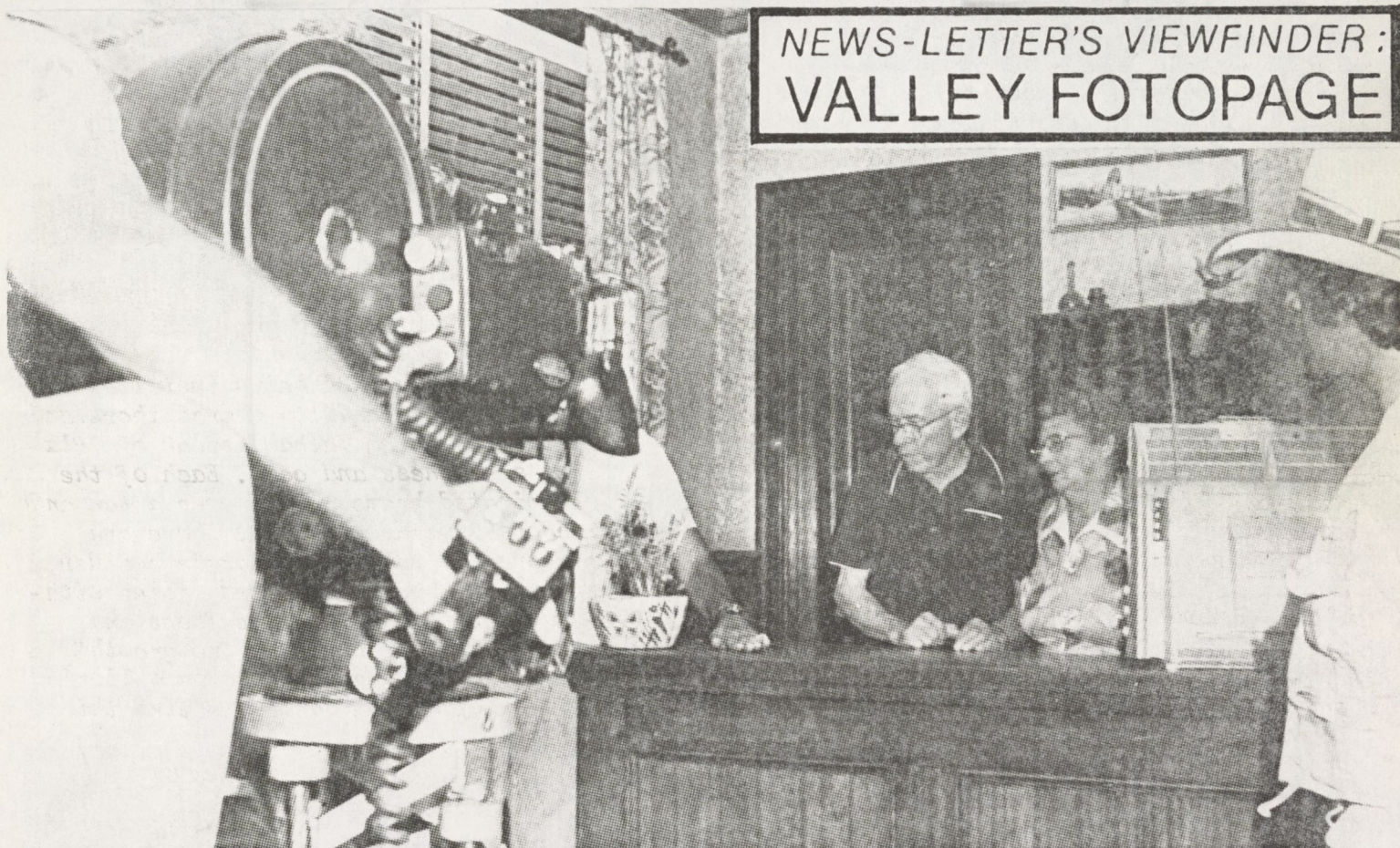
Movie-making at 2 a.m.

TO RE-ENACT LAUREN ELDER'S PAINFUL HIKE FOR HELP AN NBC CREW WORKS FAR INTO THE NIGHT AT THE ORIGINAL SCENES ON INDEPENDENCE'S STREETS

Sometime late this week NBC Producer Burt Nodella will pack up his crew and depart for Los Angeles; he will have completed "And I Alone Survived," a television film based on Lauren Elder's night-time walk



NEWS-LETTER'S VIEWFINDER: VALLEY FOTOPAGE



into Independence following a plane crash in the Sierra. In the last days - and long nights - of filming, actors and crew moved into town to recapture as authentically as possible the Elder adventure. When it could, NBC recruited the local people, like the Winnedumah's Fred Schaefer, to play their original roles; it was at the Winnedumah that medical aid called in by another motel owner finally arrived to take the sole survivor, Elder, to a hospital. Above: the Schaefer on camera; at left, Director Billy Graham gestures in directing Actress Blair Brown, and creates ghostly images in this time exposure.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S WARNING

Criminal justice system: 'It isn't working'

PERMISSIVE ATTITUDES, LEGAL LOOPHOLES
ARE AT THE ROOT OF TODAY'S LAWLESSNESS

HE CITED WITH AN ALMOST WISTFUL ENVY an historical criminal case in England: "It took seventeen days to finish; it was a record. Here it can take up to eleven years to get a final verdict." California's attorney general was voicing his complaints about criminal justice in this state. The attorney general, speaking before a collection of area law enforcement people, would temper all of California's mercy with a little justice. For nearly an hour Evelle Younger set out for his audience the best facts he could find to show the apparent decline in a once-proud system of officers and courts. At the top of his list of grievances, Younger placed "court procedures" and the host of hair-splitting (and sometimes hair-raising) "technicalities" that turn hardened criminals loose



Attorney General Younger talks to the cops
"The people of California care" he reminded.

on California streets. "Everybody agrees," said Younger, "that the defendant is guilty of the crime, but it is through a legal point that he is set free." Younger said his own son was a "street cop for awhile," but then he "went to Harvard Law School and he couldn't believe the corruption there. People in those areas think it's cute to be on the take; people there don't care."

"Well, the people in California care. They demand good law enforcement. California officers are paid better than in other states; there are more colleges and universities here giving police training than in the total of all other states." But the officer is only a part of the system of public security: "The criminal justice system is supposed to control human behavior...but there are no successful deterrents." Crime control, said (See SPEECH, Page 14)

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

juries...both good and bad experiences," although Gibbons did not elaborate on the "experiences." Committees of the new grand jury will hold frequent sessions, but the collective jury will meet but once each month. A former Bishop city councilman, Howard Knox, one of the jury members, says he will be the public spokesman for the jury, dealing with the area media.

INYO'S SAFEWAY STORES, now back to work after a week-long walkout of local members of the retail clerk's union, imported a manager for its downtown Bishop outlet, and it looks now like he's there to stay. "I hate to leave Mammoth," says Steve Walker, "but I'm glad to get the promotion. Walker was named manager after the former manager, Tom Brunson, himself a member of the clerks union, went on strike along with his employees. In Safeway's game of musical chairs, Brunson was shifted to its northside store and the manager there, Dave Wells, was brought downtown to work with Walker, "but not as manager." Walker says the management shifts have "nothing to do with the strike."

INYO'S TRAFFIC TOLL, FOLLOWING CLOSELY ALONG estimates predicted by highway patrol officials, took another jump in July. Fatalities in Inyo and Mono Counties stood at 20 as the end of the month approached - and with the Labor Day holiday still ahead. Among the latest victims was 22-year-old David Tobey, a Caltrans worker who had just finished his day's work and was standing on or near the highway. A Caltrans truck on the road opposite him was

struck from behind by a motorist whose car careened across the road, lurched headlong into Tobey, killing him on the spot. And on Highway 6 near Benton, a motorcyclist, Harry Bryan, 48, was in a head-on collision with a big truck. Bryan died instantly as his head and limbs were torn from his body. Fatal accidents here and elsewhere have been steadily on the increase since motorists began speeding up oblivious to the 55-mile limit.

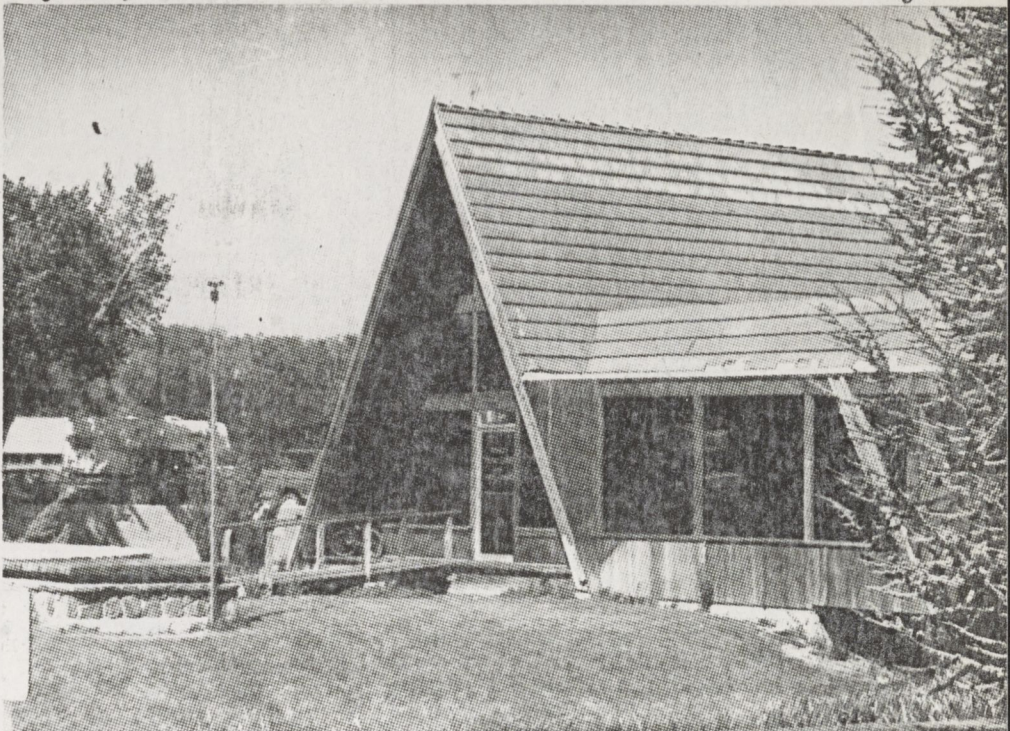
INYO'S PUBLIC DEFENDER (YOU CAN CALL HIM THAT now) Dean Stout may be a few months' short of the experience that state law prefers for such a position but he'll keep his job anyhow. Judge Verne Summers has denied a writ of mandate that challenged his appointment as the county defender, in effect agreeing with the supervisors and the district attorney who claimed that, technically speaking, Stout was not "hired" for the job but is instead a private contractor who serves in that capacity. The challenge came from a Bishop attorney, Charles Karpinski, who also said he will appeal "any conviction" because he thinks Inyo's defender would be serving "illegally."

AT LEAST ONE LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH OFFICIAL IS thankful for the choice made by Rome's College of Cardinals in selecting a new Pope. Father Harry Grupa of Lone Pine's Santa Rosa Church says the new Pope, John Paul, will be a leader to re-unify a church that has become fragmented by arguments over church law. "He will maintain tradition, but possibly change some of the church laws...but no divine laws. He will get back to the essentials of our church, observe

(More NEWS BRIEFS on Page 13)

At Bishop, a Hot Issue

THEY CALL IT "PROMOTION" MONEY, BUT TO THE SUPPORTERS OF A BISHOP COUNCILMAN, \$50,000 OF TAX MONEY PAID TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS STILL "SUBSIDY," "WELFARE" OR "HANDOUT."



Chamber of Commerce and Visitors' Center
"Parks and Rec Department pays the bills"

Chamber Manager Denton Sonke
"An attack on the business community"

IN THIS, THE YEAR OF JARVIS, a matter of subsidy in the amount of \$50,000 of taxpayers' money has become an issue generating a controversy perhaps somewhat more bitterly argued than the town's staid business community would prefer. The controversy, which now has degenerated into a lot of private name-calling and personal threats, centers on a recently-elected city councilman, Peter Pearson, who claims with some justification that taxpayers' money should not be used to support what amounts to private business promotion, via a municipal subsidy (\$50,000) paid routinely until now into the coffers of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce. Councilman Pearson would limit to \$1000 the amount of tax money paid into any private concern, but his proposal to make such a limit was quickly and angrily defeated by the other council members highly sensitive to the clout that Bishop business has at city hall. The proposal was seen by the Bishop Chamber Manager Denton Sonke as nothing less than "an attack on our business community." Sonke argues that "without business our town and the country would be nothing. It really disturbs me. I feel

they (Pearson and his numerous supporters) are off-base. We earn our way and the property owners are not paying much."

But it is precisely the business community that is most vocal against payouts of "government money" to any other special interests, points out Pearson.

Sonke does not see the chamber and the private firms that make up its membership as a "special interest," even though its existence only indirectly serves the greater community of residents. To many residents not personally involved or dependent upon the Main street economy, the \$50,000 for promoting the town attracts tourists which to them are more of a bother and an expense - and a threat to their environmental and personal seclusion - than a social or monetary asset. To those so oriented, the tax money handed over to the merchants is a hand-out better spent on other municipal services.

Sonke also points out that the "bed tax" charged to Bishop's visitors who stay in local hostelrys pays money into the city treas-

(See MONEY ISSUE on next page)

For Highway Patrolman Tim Nixon it had been a hot chase with a hotter ending. He caught the offending speeder in his new (only about 1000 miles of use) patrol car, wrote a traffic summons and returned to the car to find it afire. Volunteers rushed from Independence in response to his radio call and they managed to save the car - while Nixon directed traffic around them.



Groundbreaking: Shovels of dirt, Mountains of Faith at Lone Pine



Bob Harke, Lone Pine's newsman-turned-preacher, established his Boy's Ranch of the Pacific in a stark, frame jumble of old Manzanar Camp buildings and now wants to expand the "ranch" he has re-named Christ's Chapel of the Pacific. Hoping to carry through his project - one of the county's few effective youth programs - with donations of labor, money and material, he held a sparsely-attended groundbreaking ceremony on Saturday. Harke says he has "a couple" of pledges and "confidence and faith that we can do it." He needs up to \$40,000-plus and as the ceremony was held he counted \$18 in the ranch bank account, barely enough to care for his "current average" of "four or five boys" for the week. The ranch needs donations of clothing, equipment, furniture and other necessities, but, largely self-sustaining, it has managed to survive under Harke's leadership; with Harke on the shovel: One of "his boys," Lee Desaux.

MONEY ISSUE, Continued

ury. "The bed tax," he argues, "was for the purpose of promoting the area, and the chamber is the vehicle. This year's bed tax will be around \$155,000." A point well-taken, viewed in the light of the dollar results of "promotion." Sonke explained that chamber income goes to promote such events as "Mule Days," and that event alone brought about \$2 million into the city and also added about \$21,000 in local sales taxes. "It's important to keep Bishop in front of the people."

That Inyo's and Bishop's economies are based on tourist trade is a matter oft-proclaimed and generally acknowledged. But not everyone agrees; some see "government" and the income it provides as the "real" economy and tax base. Only a minority hiring very few enjoys tourist profit, says Pearson.

As the new week opened, Bishop's mayor, Bob Campbell, joined in the group after Pearson's scalp. "I think it's ridiculous," he said, and not just because of the chamber funding." He was asked to comment on Pearson's most recent move - an initiative that would bring the issue before the public in an election. "People have asked me why I'm against the initiative process. I'm not. But Pearson didn't go through the proper procedures. He wanted the council to approve what he didn't do."

What's that? "The signatures on the petition were not certified," says the mayor.

Campbell says he doubts that the initiative would have much trouble passing, that a great number of Bishop businessmen live outside the city limits and would be unable to

vote in the election. He said that Bishop people will "usually vote for" any issue that appears to save tax monies. The mayor avers that "property tax isn't supporting the chamber," that "the bed tax does. We're taking in more than a hundred thousand in bed tax. It all goes into the general fund."

Meanwhile, opponents to the chamber of commerce subsidy dredged up another complaint this week. It came to light that the city tax money also goes to pay the bills - electric, heating, cooling, etc. - for the building that houses the chamber of commerce. That money, not even listed in either the chamber's books or the city's records, comes from the city parks and recreation department in so far unknown amounts. Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Bob Lorimor said "It's been like that ever since I can remember. I don't know what the exact bills are because they are in with our utilities."

Has Pearson read rightly the mood of the taxpayers in 1978? It appears that he may have touched a sore spot in the populace. In a matter of days he secured signatures far beyond those needed to bring about an initiative. It had been his hope to get the issue on the November ballot in order to avoid the cost of a special election. Meanwhile, he "gets phone calls - name-calling...people threatening to get me fired, people calling my wife."

Meanwhile, Pearson and others, including Sonke, scotched a rumor to the effect that private interests might "buy the chamber building" and set the chamber up as an agency completely independent of the city till. As far as could be determined, the rumor had no basis in truth.

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

its tradition...but not in the dictatorial sense of Paul." One of the issues in the church - and one that creates anger in the ranks of Roman Catholic feminists - that the new Pope may resolve is that of female priests. Says Grupa firmly: "I hope this women's ordination idea is junked. And he must also define heresy...just cut out the general confusion." General confusion it might be, but the problems inherited from Pope Paul are not likely to be resolved overnight, not very peacefully. Generally speaking, Albino Luciani who takes the Papal name John Paul I, is considered to be conservative in matters religious, progressive in his ideas on social issues; where the two collide will be the fields of his private if not public battles everywhere.

A NUMBER OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, business men and some top state officials, including the visiting attorney general and his staff, almost overplayed their hand this week in their well-meaning attempt to lure a Bishop ambulance owner to a restaurant where he was to be honored for his community service. Shy and modest to a fault, Bob Richards has for years avoided the spotlight, public tributes - and even remuneration due him for an amazing record (missed only one ambulance call in years as a driver) of public service. Aware of Richards' reluctance to accept recognition, some of the organizers of a planned Embers Restaurant ceremony took no chances on his not being there: They called for an ambulance. With sirens screaming, Richards



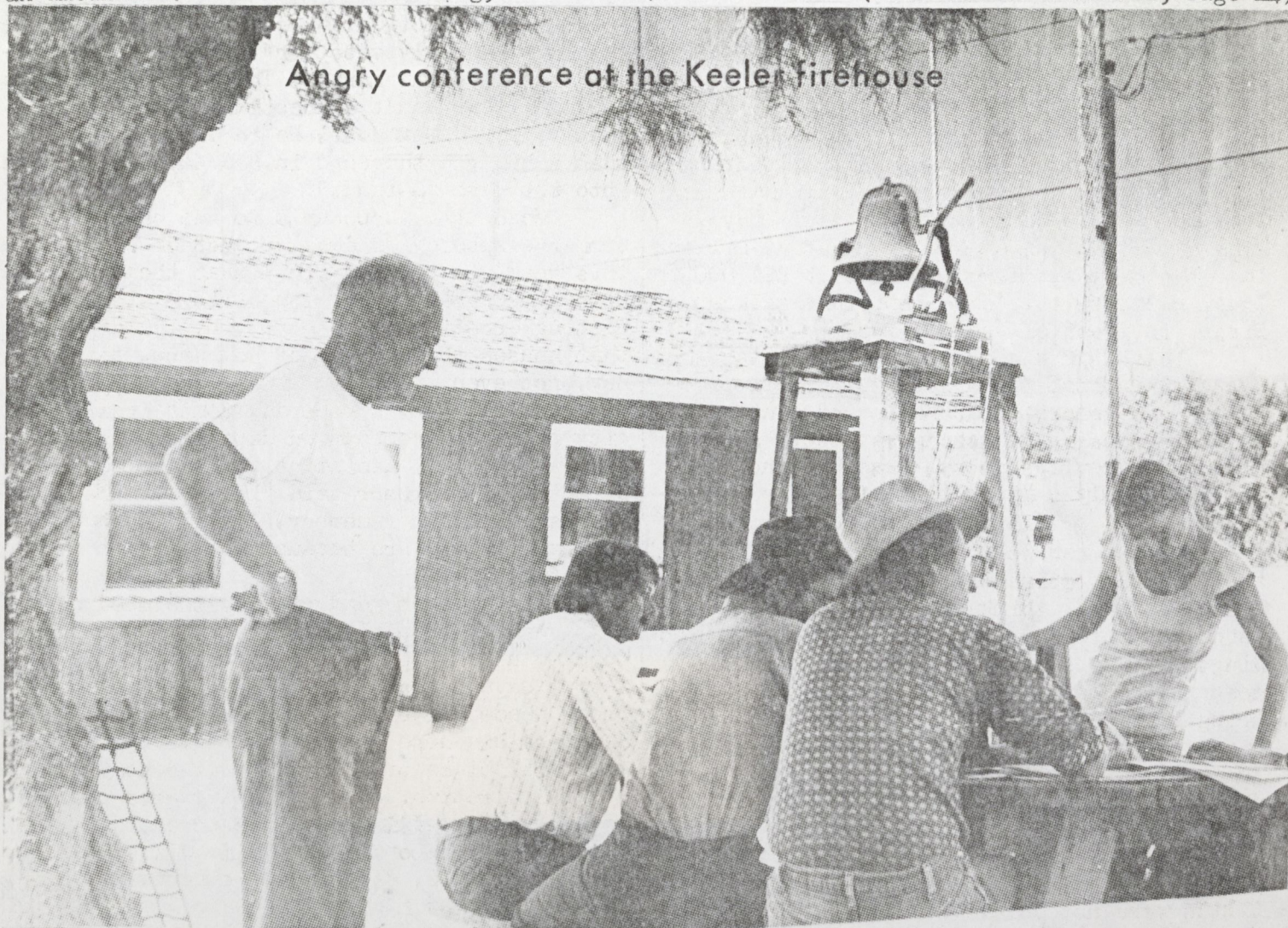
Evelle Younger, Bob Richards, Police Chief Fred Coburn
"With siren screaming...arriving in faithful tradition."

arrived in expected, faithful tradition. Richards takes his emergency calls seriously, as evidenced by his record. When he arrived to discover the call had been only some prankish insurance to get him there, he departed with mixed emotions; some of the guests feared he might not return. But he came back, nervously awaited the attorney general's praise, quickly shook hands and with some reluctance posed for three photographers. He left as quickly as he had arrived - almost - to await his next call for help. In 40 years he has had - not necessarily enjoyed - "one 24-hour vacation."

ONE HOT AFTERNOON THIS WEEK, A SMALL GROUP OF angry Keeler community residents called in their favorite and trusted supervisor and

(NEWS BRIEFS continued, Page 14)

Angry conference at the Keeler firehouse



Beneath a firehouse shade tree Keelerites lay out their facts for Supervisor Richard McDonald. With some barely-suppressed fears of bureaucratic reprisal, some Keeler people "went public" to tell of federal encroachment on their lands and complain of "government by regulation."

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

with hopes that county-level government might swing at least some weight with the federal bureaucracy told him their woes. The complaint they voice is with the Bureau of Land Management, its negligible attention to a petition circulated by the Keeler people and bearing an impressive 1500 names, with BLM management of nearby lands, and BLM's arrogant regulatory enforcement which includes bureau employees wearing side-arms. Even as the Keeler residents aired their views - somewhat hesitantly to be sure, because of BLM "reprisal" on some of their mining claims - it came to light that Keeler's small group was not alone: At Trona and other south-county communities similar cries are arising from the desertland. Supervisor McDonald, after a two-hour session, said he will take up the issue with other Inyo officials and see if he may be able to get a hearing for the people there.

TWO INYO COUNTY DETECTIVES "WENT DOWN SOUTH" Monday night to follow up one of several leads they have in the ongoing investigation of Inyo's recent triple murder. On Tuesday of this week Sheriff Floyd Barton said he is "hopeful" that the new line of investigation might soon lead to clearing the case from the books. It has been more than two weeks since a middle-aged Palmdale man and his two sons were shotgunned to death near Lone Pine.

SPEECH, Continued

Younger, involves a system of police, courts, and public desire for lawfulness and respect for law.

"Trials take longer and longer, and they cost more and more."

Juvenile crime is another thorny issue for peace officers. Younger said that organized crime is actually hiring teen-aged "hit men" with the assured knowledge that a "juvenile" will not suffer the consequences of an "adult" criminal. "As for juvenile problems,"

he said, "the community release board appointments are no good. A juvenile knows he won't get much time for a crime. A seventeen-year-old first degree murderer can get 26 months. They are hiring these kids as killers."

As for the "rehabilitation" of criminals, Younger implies that Californians suffer a lot of guilt. "We shouldn't apologize for this," he says, "If someone wants rehabilitation in prison, they'll get it." His statement to that effect bears out recent research which indicates that prisons with and without rehabilitation programs have essentially the same recidivism, or "repeat", statistics.

What is the future of law enforcement? It is already functioning well, apparently, this due to technology; to computers which flash in a second interstate intelligence. But it can only be as good as the public wants it to be.

YOUNGER, Continued

clined to state, referring the reporter to the Inyo district attorney for elaboration. Younger did say he was not just concerned with numbers (of voters) when asked about the comparative voting powers of Los Angeles and Inyo and how his siding with Inyo might cost him in the greater electorate.

But the news on the water issue is yet to come. Younger gave several assurances - almost as a signal - that he intends to "come out with a statement on state water policy" in the near future. Pressed for some answer on the nature of the statement, he declined, but said the Owens Valley situation will be covered specifically in his statement.

In matters that he seemed to know best, and in which he has demonstrated a considerable expertise - the courts and law enforcement in a state teetering precariously on the brink of an apparently total breakdown - the attorney general saved his most telling remarks, and his most impressive appearance, at a luncheon that would follow. For a report on his talk at Bishop's Embers Restaurant, see Page 10.

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